



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

# Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

***"I can give you a six-word formula for success: think things through- then follow through."***  
***-Eddie Rickenbacker, American World War I fighter ace***

Friday, March 7, 2008

Thursday was graduation day for 14 Wabash Valley Correctional Facility offenders who successfully completed the PEN Products/U.S. Department of Labor Graphic Arts Apprenticeship Program, the first of its kind in the state. Keynote speaker, Commissioner J. David Donahue, said the recipients are demonstrating positive change as they prepare to re-enter society, extensively trained to seek a well paying job.

Recently, residents of the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility graduated from a money management class taught by staff of the National City Bank. National City has agreed to a volunteer partnership with PREF to provide the class to help residents prepare for return to the community. The program is such a success that National City staff distributed a press release announcing the program and the recent graduation of residents.

Indianapolis Men's and Women's Community Re-Entry Centers participated in Indiana Business College's Criminal Justice Week. The Acting Superintendents gave talks on "Careers in Corrections" and the facilities hosted a job fair.

*Correctional News* Magazine featured the Indiana Department of Correction for creating the world's first 600-horsepower-rated boiler, which runs purely on ethanol. Find the article at <http://www.correctionalnews.com/ME2/Audiences/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=Publishing&mod=Publications%3A%3AArticle&mid=8F3A7027421841978F18BE895F87F791&tier=4&id=CB69547B69924B0AB6F33C43249902C4&AudID=A8CD3887511441F7AA259DA5A2CCFA71>.

The Michigan City Police Department gave a special presentation to the students of Camp Summit Boot Camp on the many pitfalls of STG or gang involvement. The presentation is intended to help young people make sound decisions regarding resisting traditional STG temptations. While Camp Summit's STG problem is likely not as serious as many facilities, it is hoped presentations like this may help students to avoid making the problem any worse.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Volunteer Recognition Dinner to honor community service volunteers for their outstanding and dedicated service to the facility. Approximately 30 volunteers attended.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center continues its fundraising efforts for the 2008 Indianapolis Komen Race for the Cure to support breast cancer research. In addition to a \$500 monetary donation, 20 runners and walkers will represent the facility by participating in the April 19<sup>th</sup> event.

PEN Products awarded U.S. Department Labor Apprenticeship Certificates to 16 offenders at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. Each offender completed over 500 hours of classroom work and over 8000 hours of on-the-job training in the PEN Products print shop to earn the Offset Press Operator I Apprenticeship.

The PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) Program at Westville Correctional Facility graduated its third class since the inception of the program. Nine graduates received their Certificates of Completion.

The offenders of the Indiana Women's Prison, Community Outreach Program made and donated 40 felt hats to the Soul Ministry meeting at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, for distribution with meals served to the homeless.

Special Olympics of Northwest Indiana, held their second annual event "Freezin' for a Reason. Employees from the Indiana State Prison were award prizes for the most people in a group plunge (19) and most money raised by a company.

Members of Miami Correctional Facility's E-Squad and K-9 teams canvassed local neighborhoods, visiting about 400 homes and hanging the ALERT Notification System door hangers and explaining the system to interested neighbors. Correctional Industrial Facility staff also canvassed local neighborhoods, distributing approximately 500 notices.